

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action dated January 3, 2006, has been received and carefully considered. Claims 1-24 were examined on their merits. Claims 1-24 are all the claims currently pending in the present application. Reconsideration of the outstanding objections and rejections in the present application is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

Formal Matters

1. **Applicants hereby petition for the three-months extension of time required to maintain the pendency of this case.** The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fees required by this response to Deposit Account No. 50-2613 Order No. (45098.00017.UTL1.P1068) including the petition for extension of time.

2. Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the references submitted in the Information Disclosure Statements filed on April 25, 2005. However, the Examiner placed two references, #JP 7049837 A and #DE 19717167 A1, in the application file without considering them, as they failed to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3). Specifically, these references did not include a concise explanation of their relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information. Accordingly, Applicants submits herewith a supplemental Information Disclosure Statement listing references #JP 7049837 A and #DE 19717167 A1 and their respective English translations. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider the references listed on Form 1440 and promptly return of a copy of the enclosed Form 1449 with the Examiner's initials in accordance with MPEP § 609.

3. The specification was objected to on pg. 2 of the Office Action because of various informalities. The specification has been amended to address these informalities. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

4. Claims 9-12 were objected to on pg. 3 of the Office Action because of various informalities. Claims 9-12 have been amended to address these informalities. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Art Rejections

1. Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter set forth therein. Specifically, the Examiner stated that there was insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation “the display area” as recited in claim 11. Claim 11 has been amended to more specifically and accurately describe the protection sought. More particularly, “the display area” has been amended to recite “the visible area,” and “the display region” has been amended to recite “the desktop region.” In light of these amendments, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph be reconsidered and withdrawn.

2. Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Screen Dumps of Windows Media Player 9 used on Windows XP (“Windows”). Claim 1 is an independent claim. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the reasons stated below.

To be an “anticipation” rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must teach every element and recitation of the Applicants’ claims. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are proper only when the claimed subject matter is identically disclosed or described in the prior art. Thus, the reference must clearly and unequivocally disclose every element and recitation of the claimed invention.

Independent Claim 1

Windows is directed towards a windowing system that includes a display region, a desktop region, and a taskbar region. Windows is also directed towards an application that displays and/or plays various media formats.

Applicants submit that Windows fails to disclose at least the following limitations as disclosed and claimed in independent claim 1:

“A user interface on a display device for application sharing in a multimedia collaboration system”

and

“wherein the taskbar region and desktop region do not overlap within the display region.”

and

“a taskbar region within the display region”

The Examiner appears to argue that the presence of an application that can display and/or play various media formats discloses the claimed user interface on a display device for application sharing in a multimedia collaboration system. Applicants respectfully disagree. Windows provides absolutely no disclosure of a display device for application sharing. The included images, Fig. 1 – Fig. 12, disclose nothing about application sharing, and indeed have nothing whatsoever to do with application sharing. Windows provides no disclosure about multiple users or computers, or interconnectivity which would be required, at a minimum, for a disclosure regarding application sharing. Even assuming, *arguendo*, that Windows discloses the claimed application sharing, there is no disclosure that the application sharing takes place in a multimedia collaboration system. Displaying images on a media player is in no way related to a multimedia collaboration system. Again, Windows is wholly lacking in any disclosure relating to multiple users or computers, or interconnectivity between them, that would be required for a disclosure regarding a multimedia collaboration system.

In addition to failing to disclose the claimed user interface on a display device for application sharing in a multimedia collaboration system, Windows also fails to disclose the claimed taskbar region and desktop region wherein the taskbar region and desktop region do not overlap within the display region. The Examiner appears to argue that Windows Fig. 1 discloses a taskbar region and a display region that do not overlap. Applicants respectfully disagree. The

taskbar disclosed in Windows indeed does overlap, in all cases in which it is visible, the desktop disclosed in Windows. When the top edge of the taskbar is dragged downwards from its standard position, the taskbar is either hidden or made smaller. At this point it is fairly obvious that a portion of the desktop, previously hidden by the overlapping taskbar, is now visible. When the top edge of the taskbar is dragged upwards from its standard position, even more of the desktop becomes overlapped and hidden by the enlarged taskbar. When the top edge of the taskbar is dragged up in this manner, Windows, in a form of trickery, relocates its icons on the desktop and resizes displayed windows so as to make it appear as if the taskbar and the desktop do not overlap. However, the following steps will make it obvious that in fact the taskbar and the desktop still overlap. 1) Drag the top edge of the taskbar upwards so that it covers the bottom half of the display region. At this point icons on the desktop may have relocated, and any windows open will have resized, as mentioned above. 2) Right-click on the taskbar and select *Properties*. 3) Check the box marked *Auto-hide the taskbar*. 4) Make sure the box marked *Keep the taskbar on top of other windows* is checked. 5) Move the mouse away from the taskbar so that the taskbar hides at the bottom of the screen. 6) Move several desktop icons to the bottom half of the desktop. 7) Resize any application windows so that they cover at least a portion of the bottom half of the desktop. 8) Move the mouse towards the bottom of the screen so that the taskbar reappears. At this point it should be clear that the taskbar has moved and now overlaps the bottom half of the desktop. Icons placed on the lower half of the desktop are now hidden, as is any portion of an application window that covered the bottom half of the desktop. In an even more interesting demonstration, now 9) Right-click on the taskbar and select *Properties*. 10) Uncheck the previously checked box marked *Keep the taskbar on top of other windows*. Now when the taskbar is displayed, any application windows will overlap the taskbar, while the taskbar will overlap the desktop icons. From this demonstration it should be clear that Windows in no way discloses a taskbar region and a desktop region that do not overlap within the display region, as claimed in claim 1.

Finally, from the demonstration above, another distinction between the claimed invention and Windows is apparent. Windows does not disclose the claimed taskbar region within the

display region. Windows discloses a taskbar in which any application windows may obscure the taskbar. Unlike the Windows taskbar, the claimed taskbar region is distinct from all application windows on the desktop. As stated in the specification, “The taskbar region can also be completely outside of the desktop, so it cannot be obscured by any other application windows on the desktop.” (See application paragraph [023].) It follows that the taskbar region of claim 1, wherein the taskbar region and desktop region do not overlap within the display region, is of the embodiment described above: completely outside of the desktop. Pending claims must be given their broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification. *In re Hyatt, 211 F.3d 1367, 1372, 54 USPQ2d 1664, 1667 (Fed. Cir. 2000).* In this case, it is wholly inconsistent to interpret claim 1 to disclose a taskbar region that may be obscured by application windows on the desktop. As such, Windows does not disclose the claimed taskbar region within the display region.

Because Windows fails to disclose each limitation of independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) rejection from independent claim 1. Claims 2-16 are dependent upon independent claim 1. Thus, since independent claim 1 should be allowable as discussed above, claims 2-16 should also be allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claim 1. Moreover, these claims recite additional features which are not claimed, disclosed, or even suggested by the cited references taken either alone or in combination. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the aforementioned anticipation rejection of claims 1-16 be withdrawn.

3. Claims 17-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rodgers et al, U.S. Pre Grant Publication # 2002/0026478 (“Rodgers”). Claims 17 and 22 are independent claims. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the reasons stated below.

To be an “anticipation” rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must teach every element and recitation of the Applicants’ claims. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are proper only when the claimed subject matter is identically disclosed or described in the prior art. Thus,

the reference must clearly and unequivocally disclose every element and recitation of the claimed invention.

Independent Claim 17

Rodgers is generally directed towards methods and systems for facilitating the formation and maintenance of multi-user linked groups. (*See e.g. Rodgers Abstract.*) More specifically, Rodgers is directed towards a method of automatically launching and linking a third-party application on a first computer to a corresponding application on a second computer, and systems capable of performing this method (*See e.g. Rodgers paragraph [0011], Fig. 3.*) Numerous variations to the method and systems are disclosed, including methods for generating and communicating links, and varying functionality of the linking software (*See e.g. Rodgers paragraphs [0013]- [0020].*)

Applicants submit that Rodgers fails to disclose at least the following limitations as disclosed and claimed in independent claim 17:

“wherein the taskbar region and desktop region do not overlap within the display region.”

and

“a taskbar region within the display region”

and

“a sharer window within the sharer desktop region associated with an application running within the sharer desktop region.”

and

“a viewer window within the viewer desktop region”

The Examiner appears to argue that Fig. 3 and its corresponding taskbar **144** and desktop **140** disclose the claimed taskbar region and desktop region wherein the taskbar region and desktop region do not overlap within the display region. Furthermore, the Examiner appears to argue that Fig. 3 and its corresponding taskbar **144**, and the mention of a taskbar, discloses the

claimed taskbar region within the display region. Applicants respectfully disagree. Rodgers is not in any way concerned or directed towards a desktop region or a taskbar region. As such, it does disclose a general taskbar, taskbar **144** of Fig. 3, and a general desktop **140** of Fig. 3. However, taskbar **144**, with its “Start” menu and Windows logo, clearly indicates a Windows taskbar and corresponding desktop. Thus, for the reasons discussed above, and fully incorporated herein, Applicants again submit that Windows, and thus Rodgers, fails to disclose the claimed taskbar region and desktop region wherein the taskbar region and desktop region do not overlap within the display region. Furthermore, for the reasons discussed above, and fully incorporated herein, Applicants again submit that Windows, and thus Rodgers, fails to disclose the claimed taskbar region within the display region. Finally, while there is absolutely no indication that Rodgers would use an operating system other than Windows, Applicants submit that the taskbars and desktops of other popular operating system user interfaces, including Apple Mac OS X, Gnome and KDE, operate similarly to that of Windows, and thus the analysis presented above is applicable for all of these operating system user interfaces as well.

Rodgers also fails to disclose the claimed sharer window within the sharer desktop region associated with an application running within the sharer desktop region. The Examiner appears to argue that Fig. 7 and its corresponding a shared web browser **192** disclose the claimed sharer window within the sharer desktop region associated with an application running within the sharer desktop region. Applicants respectfully disagree. Rodgers discloses an application, in this case a web browser, that is capable of being selected and linked to identical applications running on other computers so that data between the applications can be shared. (*See e.g. Rodgers paragraphs [0132] – [0134].*) Rodgers makes absolutely no disclosure regarding a sharer window. Indeed, the Examiner states on Page 11 of the Office Action “it is the web browsers themselves (which are shared in a linked multi-user group) that transfer the copy of the web document from one of the web browsers to the other.” The present invention allows a window on the sharer computer to be specified, wherein all the viewable information within that window is transferred to other computers. (*See e.g. application FIG 3B.*) Applications can be associated with that window, but, unlike Rodgers, it is not the application that is linked to other computers;

it is the window. The claimed sharer window is thus a higher level of abstraction than the disclosed Rodgers shared applications. This is a fundamental distinction between the two inventions. Rodgers transmits changes of data as manipulated within an application, such as a webpage as viewed by a browser, between users to be manipulated by the end user application. The present invention, on the other hand, transmits to users images of the applications and the data they are manipulating.

Finally, Rodgers fails to disclose the claimed viewer window within the viewer desktop region. The Examiner appears to argue that Fig. 7 and its corresponding shared web browser 193 disclose the claimed viewer window within the viewer desktop region. Applicants respectfully disagree. Rodgers discloses an application, in this case a web browser, capable of displaying data, in this case a webpage, that is updated in real time via linked multi-user groups. (*See Rodgers paragraphs [0132] – [0134].*) The application is also capable of editing the data and propagating that edit to other users in the linked multi-user group. *Id.* The viewer window of the present invention is substantially different. Unlike Rodgers, in which an application is executed on the second computer corresponding to an identical application on the first computer, the claimed viewing window displays only an image corresponding to the sharer desktop and its applications. (*See e.g. application paragraph [031], FIG 3B.*) Therefore, under the present invention, the second computer need not have access to any of the corresponding applications being used by the sharer in his presentation. To further illustrate this point, under the present invention, if a sharer executes three different applications, the second computer will see all three applications in a single viewer window, but the actual applications will not be executed on the second computer. Under the Rodgers embodiment, three different applications and windows would be executed on the second computer. Furthermore, the use of a single viewer window means the applications are oriented identically to that of the sharer. Rodgers, on the other hand, gives complete control of the applications and their orientation to the second user. The only consistency between the first and second computers under the Rodgers invention is that of the data itself.

Because Rodgers fails to disclose each limitation of independent claim 17, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection from independent claim 17. Claims 18-21 are dependent upon independent claim 17. Thus, since independent claim 17 should be allowable as discussed above, claims 18-21 should also be allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claim 17. Moreover, these claims recite additional features which are not claimed, disclosed, or even suggested by the cited references taken either alone or in combination. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the aforementioned anticipation rejection of claims 17-21 be withdrawn.

Independent Claim 22

Applicants submit that Rodgers fails to disclose at least the following limitations as disclosed and claimed in independent claim 22:

“A method of application sharing...comprising: allocating distinct areas on a sharer display in interface for a sharer taskbar region and a sharer desktop region; allocating distinct areas on a viewer display interface for a viewer desktop region”

and

“the taskbar region and sharer desktop region do not overlap”

The Examiner appears to argue that the presence in Fig. 3 of a taskbar **144** and a desktop **140** on the first computer, and the presence in Fig. 3 of a desktop **141** on the second computer, discloses the claimed method of application sharing comprising allocating distinct areas on a sharer display in interface for a sharer taskbar region and a sharer desktop region and allocating distinct areas on a viewer display interface for a viewer desktop region. Applicants respectfully disagree. Rodgers has absolutely no disclosure regarding allocating regions of a display into distinct taskbar and desktop regions. There mere fact that distinct regions of a display may exist does not indicate in any way disclosure regarding the allocation of a display to those regions. Even assuming allocation of regions of a display is disclosed in Rodgers, it is implied and believed by the disclosure in Fig. 3 of a “Start” menu and Windows logo that the Windows

operating system was responsible for any allocation that may have taken place with respect to a desktop and a taskbar. This allocation is counter to the claimed allocation, which is undertaken by the method of application sharing. Rodgers has no disclosure whatsoever regarding any method of application sharing capable of allocating regions of a display. As such, Rodgers fails to disclose or describe the claimed method of application sharing comprising allocating distinct areas on a sharer display in interface for a sharer taskbar region and a sharer desktop region and allocating distinct areas on a viewer display interface for a viewer desktop region.

The Examiner appears to argue that Fig. 3 and its corresponding taskbar 144 and desktop 140 disclose the claimed sharer taskbar region and sharer desktop region that do not overlap. Applicants respectfully disagree. For the reasons discussed above, and fully incorporated herein, Applicants again submit that all standard operating system user interfaces, and thus Rodgers, fail to disclose the claimed sharer taskbar region and sharer desktop region that do not overlap.

Because Rodgers fails to disclose each limitation of independent claim 22, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection from independent claim 22. Claims 23-24 are dependent upon independent claim 22. Thus, since independent claim 22 should be allowable as discussed above, claims 23-24 should also be allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claim 22. Moreover, these claims recite additional features which are not claimed, disclosed, or even suggested by the cited references taken either alone or in combination. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the aforementioned anticipation rejection of claims 22-24 be withdrawn.

4. The references cited by the Examiner on pg. 12 and pg. 13 of the Office Action were considered especially pertinent to systems and methods of application sharing via a user interface. These references were reviewed in light of the present Office Action and are still believed to not anticipate the present application.

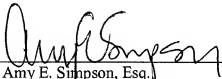
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2613 Order No. (45098.00017.UTL1.P1068).

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: June 29, 2006

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